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Georgia-South Carolina Association

A New Church Was Welcomed and Two Candidates for Ordination Were Approved



On April 16th, the Georgia-South Carolina Association gathered at Victory United Church of Christ, Stone Mountain, for its 2011 Annual Meeting under the leadership of its moderator Cornelius

Watts, a member of First Congregational UCC, Atlanta. Over 35 people were present representing Peace Congregational UCC, Clemson, Garden of Grace UCC, Columbia, Circular Congregational UCC, Charleston, and the following churches from Atlanta;



Central Congregational UCC, First Congregational UCC, Kirkwood UCC, Praxis UCC, Rush Memorial UCC, as well as Decatur UCC, Church of the Savior, Roswell, and Pilgrimage UCC, Marietta.

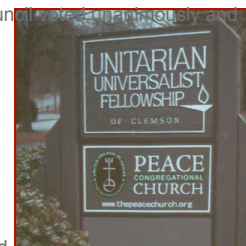
The first order of business was to call for an ecclesiastical council. The council received the presentation and petition of Peace Congregational UCC, in Clemson SC.

They introduced their ministries, and requested that they be received as a church in full standing in the UCC. With 53 charter members, Peace Congregational UCC has a ministry which has sought to "live gently on the land", and has modeled a radical hospitality. Serving a conservative community they are the only progressive Christian alternative in the region. Their pastor, Susie Smith has shown creative and energetic leadership and said as a part of the presentation; "it has been

an exciting three years that have felt like thirty!" The Council with joy to receive Peace Congregational UCC into full membership as a UCC congregation.



The ecclesiastical council then heard the two candidates for ordination, John and Rebecca Shillingburg. Both John and Rebecca are second career, and are about to graduate from Columbia Theological Seminary. They look forward to ministries set in rural or small town settings. John spoke first, preaching for the Jesus who scandalizes the affluent by calling them away from the illusion of self-sufficiency into community. Rebecca reflected on the parable of the mustard seed and the ways in which such a



UCC News

UCC Newsroom

Headlines from the United Church of Christ

WCM executive calls for 'complete withdrawal' of Ugandan anti-gay legislation

The Rev. Cally Rogers-Witte, the UCC's executive minister for Wider Church Ministries, issued a statement today (May 11) calling for the Ugandan government to drop legislation that calls for the imprisonment of homosexuals.



small seed can symbolize God's amazing power to disrupt and transform a life. She asked whether those gathered were ready for the mustard seeds in their lives an unexpected, invasive and reorienting in breaking of God. Both John and Rebecca were unanimously recommended for ordination. They are members of Church of the Savior in Roswell. Tim Downs took a moment to point out that Peace Congregational UCC and the Shillingburg's who came out of a newly affiliated congregation together represent the vitality that is sweeping the conference as a result of new churches and new leadership.



Following a brief business meeting, the meeting adjourned to lunch, where Dr. Kenneth L. Samuel, pastor and founder of Victory Church brought greetings. The Georgia South Carolina Committee on Ministry met over lunch, and during the meeting approved the transfer of ordained ministerial standing for Michael Piazza from the South Central Conference to the Southeast Conference. The also approved Jennifer Spears to be licensed for ministry at Garden of Grace UCC, in Columbia. Michael was the pastor of the Cathedral of Hope in Dallas prior to his call to serve Virginia Highland Church in Atlanta. Jennifer is about to graduate from the TAP program.



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Southeast Conference United Church of Christ - 1330 West Peachtree Street, Suite 350 - Atlanta, GA 30309 || Office: 800.807.1993, Fax: 404.607.7939
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